

ZAPRIOTHRICA, A NEW GENUS BASED UPON SIGALOESSA DISPAR
SCHINER, 1868

(DIPTERA, DROSOPHILIDAE)

BY MARSHALL R. WHEELER, *Department of Zoology, University of Texas, Austin.*

I recently had the opportunity of studying the four "types" of *Sigaloessa dispar* Schiner, borrowed by Dr. Curtis Sabrosky from the Naturhistorischen Museum in Vienna. Dr. Sabrosky very courteously sent the specimens to the writer for examination upon noting that they belonged to the family Drosophilidae rather than to the Asteiidae as had been supposed.

Of the four types, two are males, two are females; all four bear identical labels as follows: (1) "Lindig; 1864; Venezuela"; (2) "dispar; Alte Sammlung"; (3) "Type" (on red paper). In addition, one specimen bears the handwritten label "*Sigaloessa dispar* Schin."

Since no holotype was designated for the species, I have selected one of the four syntypes as lectotype; the specimen so selected is a male to which I have affixed this label: "Lectotype; selected by M. R. Wheeler; April, 1955." All four specimens are being returned to the museum in Vienna.

Although the specimens are imperfect, among them one can see most of the external morphological features. They are clearly drosophilid but I have been unable to fit them into any of the established genera. The species show some features suggestive of *Zygothrica* while in other respects *Zaprionus* is indicated. However, *dispar* possesses certain unique traits which eliminate those genera from consideration, and I am describing for this species the new genus, *Zapriothrica*.

Zapriothrica, new genus¹

(Fig. 1)

Type Species: *Sigaloessa dispar* Schiner, 1868.

Generic characters; many of the features of the head are shown in Figure 1. Arista short plumose, with 6-7 dorsal branches and 3-4 shorter lower branches, the main axis not forked apically; antennal foveae exceptionally deep for this family, separated by a high but very narrow carina; palpi exceptionally large, short-haired except for a single long hair near base; proboscis long, the labellum noticeably extended behind.

Scutellum elongate, truncate; thoracic bristling probably normal (damaged on all specimens and not described by Schiner) but the only sternopleurals seen were rather short and thin; all apical tarsal joints enlarged, with 4-6 strong bent hairs on the dorsal apex and the empodium and pulvilli remarkably enlarged (Schiner: die Klauen stark gebogen, die Pulvillen gefranst), the latter

¹*Zapriothrica*—an artificial name formed by combining portions of the generic names *Zaprionus* and *Zygothrica*; the name is to be treated as feminine.

appearing quite plumose. Major bristles of front femora arising from small tubercles.

Female ovipositor long, protruding, the plates bearing very stout black teeth; in both males the penis (apparently) is extended, and is nearly as long as the abdomen. In both males two pairs of black accessory genitalial structures are protruding; I have seen nothing quite like them in other *Drosophilidae*.

***Zapriothrica dispar* (Schiner), new combination**

Since Schiner's description is not generally accessible, a partial redescription of the species seems advisable.

Head.—Almost as broad as thorax; orbits subshining, reaching verticals; a frontal triangle fairly well indicated, large, subshining, but all of front appears dully micro-pubescent when viewed from an oblique angle. Ocellars arising from beside anterior ocellus; orbitals of about equal length (see Fig. 1); face tan, clypeus brown, shiny, narrow; cheeks pale tan becoming browner behind; palpi tan, large in both sexes; postverticals moderately large, convergent.

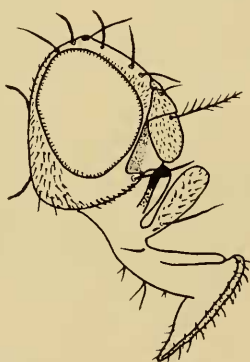


Fig. 1: *Zapriothrica dispar* (Schiner), head in profile, based mainly on the lectotype male.

Thorax.—Mesonotum subshining brownish-black, humeri tan; aerostichals probably 8-rowed but disturbed on all specimens; prescutellar bristles apparently absent; two thin humerals. Pleura brown becoming reddish below; halteres pale. Legs pale, apical tarsal joints darker, enlarged; apical and preapical tibial bristles not evident but tibia 2 has several black, stout, short bristles on lower apex. Tibia 3 mildly arcuate; front femora with the 4-6 larger bristles arising from small prominences.

Abdomen. The colors may not now be true to life, but on both males the tergites are mainly yellowish-tan while of the females, one has the tergites brown and the anal plates, ovipositor and circumanal tergite yellow, while on the second female the last two tergites are as yellow as are the anal plates and ovipositor. In both sexes several apical bristles on the last two tergites are noticeably enlarged.

Wings. Clear hyaline; 1st costal section with two rows of thin but moderately

long hairs; costa reaching 4th vein; 3rd costal section with the small black setulae on the basal $\frac{1}{2}$ or a bit more; anal vein rudimentary; 3rd and 4th veins weakly converging apically. Costal index 1.9-2.0; 4th vein index about 1.6; 5x index 1.1-1.2. Cilia of the calypters brown.

ADDENDUM

Since the above was written, I have received about 60 additional specimens of *Zapriothrica dispar* from a locality near Bogota, Colombia, South America, from flowers of *Datura*.

REFERENCE

Schiner, J. R., 1868. Reise der oesterreichischen Fregatte Novara um die Erde. Zoologischer Theil. Diptera. Wien, 1868, pp. vi and 388. (*Sigaloessa dispar*; p. 237).

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Congratulations to ESA for this much needed addition to the entomological literature!

—RICHARD H. FOOTE, *Entomology Research Branch, U. S.
Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.*